



# Clacton County High School Weekly News

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## ***The Delights of the Orient***

This week, with students resuming their lessons within specialist teaching rooms around the school, teachers have been able to return to their usual base rooms. This has enabled them to start delivering lessons with different elements, structures and with additional features. Once such lesson took place in the English department when Miss Oram transported her Year 9 English class to India and immersed them in the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the Orient. She transformed her base room into an Indian bazaar and placed numerous items around the desks for the students to examine and guess what a number of the items were used for and how others worked. They had the opportunity to smell spices, taste dates and seeds, feel the textures of the cloths that adorned each table, listen to the Indian style music and handle various fruits, ornaments, toys and tools found in that part of the world. They discovered what type of fruit is produced by a sausage tree, how oriental Manjeera finger cymbals should be used and that a 'doughnut' shaped wicker carrying ring is used to balance jars and baskets on the top of heads when transporting water and produce.



Miss Oram also allowed the students to examine a number of antiques including a stuffed cobra snake, a 1930's zebra skin and experience the vibrations produced by a 'singing bowl' that she purchased from the Boudhanath Stupa in Kathmandu, Nepal when she spent a year teaching English in a Tibetan Monastery. Students were tasked with using their descriptive writing skills to paint a picture in words about all of the sensual stimulation from around the room. The immersive experience of the Orient will help students bring their imagination to life and help to make links to the text they are currently studying - 'The Sign of Four' by Arthur Conan Doyle.

## ***CCHS Student Leadership***

This week we appointed eight Senior Student Leaders who will head up our new Student Leadership system. Over sixty applications were received by the staff leaders, from which a short-list of twelve students was created. Those students were asked to deliver a presentation and attend a final selection interview. This is the beginning of a much larger Student Leadership system that we wish to develop over the next academic year. The overall intention is to give students confidence to express themselves and have a positive influence over aspects of everyday school life and to think about how they can encourage wider involvement from members of the CCHS community with projects that could benefit beyond school into our local and global community. Congratulations to our first Senior Student Leaders - Oliver - Year 7; Eloise - Year 8; Faith and William - Year 9; Frankie, Emily, Grace and Ruby - Year 10. The selection team were beyond impressed with the performance of all the shortlisted candidates at every stage of the selection process – their written applications, presentations and interviews; we feel incredibly proud to have students like our new leaders, and all the others who applied, within our school community. Well done to them all!



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## Sports Leaders on Cloud Nine

A number of our Year 10 students were recently presented with their 'Sports Leaders UK Level 1' certificates. The sports leaders started the two-year course back in September 2019, after being chosen by the PE team as students that had stood out in lessons as outstanding leaders. This was an additional qualification that the students studied, alongside their regular lessons, requiring them to devote many hours of their free time to ensure they satisfied all of the requirements of the qualification. As part of the practical leadership element of the course, the students have been responsible for organising and running several PE events, such as interform tournaments and colour runs. They have also been involved in the annual Shorefields sports day and a primary sports festival where the leaders planned their own activities and led the whole afternoon event. The course syllabus required the leaders to complete a series of written tasks, learning about the various behaviours and skills required to be an effective leader, alongside completing a number of hours of leadership activities. Safe to say, the number of hours that they have devoted to leading events and activities, during their course, meant that they over achieved in this area! Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the leaders worked from home in completing remaining tasks alongside their home study school work. Congratulations to them all; maybe we will see some of them back at CCHS in a number of years as qualified PE teachers!

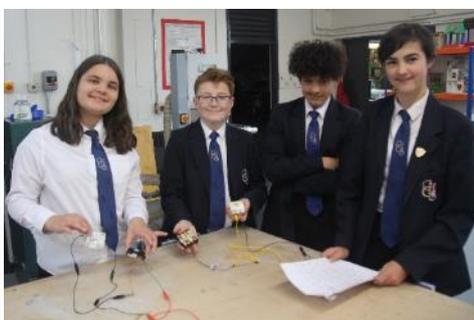
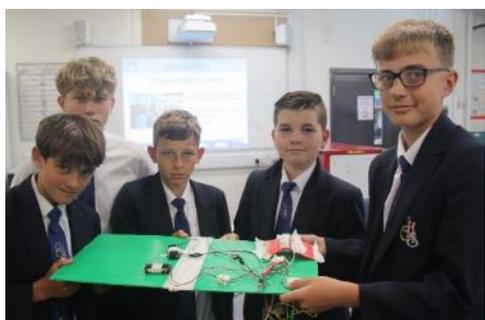


## STEM Faraday Challenge

This week we held a special Year 8 Faraday Challenge Day organised by the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) to help promote the importance of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) subjects. This year the annual engineering-based competition took on an alternative Teacher-Led format, given the circumstances, replacing the need for an IET facilitator to lead the STEM challenge. This year the IET has teamed up with Network Rail with teams of students, from hundreds of other schools around the country, competing to see who can design, create and promote the best solution to a set challenge – based around rail infrastructure and transport.



Throughout the Challenge Day, the five teams of students worked on their design idea – including the production of a design brief, explanation of their ideas and the construction of a working prototype – made from materials that they 'bought' from the Faraday shop, which the finance officer in each team had to account for.



The day concluded with a presentation of their designs and prototype by each team, which was filmed ready for submission to the IET Faraday Challenge Team, along with copies of their designs and photos of their prototypes. We look forward to hearing which of our teams has won the coveted IET trophy and earned themselves a position in the national league table. At the end of the season in a few weeks, the top teams from across the UK go through to the national final, scheduled to be held during the autumn term, to compete for a cash prize of up to £1,000 for the school to spend on STEM activities. Watch this space!



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